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(54) Title of the Invention:

HIGH-SPEED WRITING SYSTEM FOR MEMORY DEVICE

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- (72) Inventor: Misao Higuchi
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SPECIFICATION

1. Title of the Invention

HIGH-SPEED WRITING SYSTEM FOR MEMORY DEVICE

2. Claims

A high-speed write system for a memory device which is characterized by the fact that in a write system for a memory device that contains a plurality of memory cells, writing is performed for all memory cells with the writing time set at the minimum permissible value or at a value near said minimum value, after which memory cells in which writing has been completed and memory cells in which writing has not yet been completed are detected, and the aforementioned series of operations is performed again only for the memory cells in which writing has not yet been completed.

3. Detailed Description of the Invention

The present invention relates to a high-speed writing system for a memory device, and more specifically relates to a high-speed writing system for a memory device which is suitable for writing in erasable programmable read-only memories (referred to below as "EPROMs"), in which data can be erased by means of irradiation with ultraviolet light, etc.

In recent years, as the capacity of EPROMs has increased, an increase in data writing time has become a problem. In conventional EPROM writing methods, a system in which a pulse with a width of 50 ms is applied for each byte is standard. In the case of such methods, a writing time of approximately 7 minutes is required for the writing of a 64K EPROM (50 ms × 8 kbytes). Furthermore, in the case of a 128K EPROM, a time of more than 14 minutes (50 ms × 16 kbytes) is actually required. Here, since the erase time is approximately 15 to 20 minutes in the case of an EPROM in which data is erased by means of irradiation with ultraviolet light, a time of 30 minutes or more is required if erasing and writing are performed together. Furthermore, if the capacity is increased, the

time required will be increased even further, so that serious problems arise in terms of both time and economy.

It appears that the abovementioned writing pulse width of 50 ms per byte is determined from the standpoint of variation in the process and from the standpoint of reliability. However, it is not the case that all bits require the same time; a certain time in excess of the minimum required time is sufficient. Accordingly, there are also methods in which the writing time is shortened simply by narrowing the writing pulse width.

The present invention does not merely narrow the writing pulse width, but instead provides a high-speed writing method which shortens the writing time for an EPROM, and which is superior in terms of efficiency and reliability.

The present invention is a high-speed writing system in which the minimum writing pulse width is first set; this system is constructed from a master EPROM or a data memory that stores addresses and data to be written, a written EPROM into which writing is performed on the basis of the aforementioned master EPROM or data memory, a comparator circuit which compares the two memories, and which sets a flag in cases where there are bytes that do not agree between the respective data, a memory which stores only addresses consisting of bytes in which the data agrees, and a memory which stores only addresses consisting of bytes in which the data does not agree. Respective addresses that agree and that do not agree are detected by a comparison performed after one writing; additional writing is performed only in the case of addresses that agree, and rewriting is performed only in the case of addresses that do not agree. Then, only the previous addresses that did not agree are compared by the comparator circuit, and addresses consisting of bytes that agree and addresses consisting of bytes that do not agree are detected; and the respective addresses are written into memory. The abovementioned method is repeated a maximum number of times (here designated as N times), and in cases where the flag of the comparator circuit is not set during this period, additional writing is performed only in the case of the final agreeing addresses, and

writing is completed. In cases where the flag is set even after n times, the written EPROM is judged as having faulty writing.

In the present invention, the minimum writing time required for respective bytes in byte units is sufficient, and additional writing is performed with consideration given to reliability. If an average pulse width of 10 ms is sufficient for a 128K EPROM, then writing can be completed in approximately 3 minutes even if time for comparison is included. Furthermore, since only necessary writing is performed in byte units, high reliability is achieved. Moreover, in cases where the writing is faulty, the last address with disagreeing bytes can be used for fault analysis. Accordingly, it may be said that this system is a superior high-speed writing system.

Below, the present invention will be described in detail in terms of an embodiment. Figure 1 is a block diagram which illustrates one embodiment of the present invention. Figure 2 is one example of a flow chart, which is used to illustrate Figure 1. First, after starting, the final address of a master address memory circuit part (M) storing voltage conditions, master addresses and master data is set in a register as G. This is included in the control circuit of Figure 1, and corresponds to the initial setting in Figure 2. x in Figure 2 is an address counter; this is used to detect the final address. n is a repetition counter; the maximum writing time is determined by this counter. Here, the maximum number of repetitions is designated as N. Following the initial setting in Figure 2, the address counter x is set at "0", and the number of repetitions is set at "1". Next, prior to writing, a check is generally made in order to ascertain whether or not the product has been erased. In cases where the product has been erased, the data is ordinarily "1", and is "FF" in a hexa-type when 1 byte is 8 bits. This is checked for all addresses, and in cases where "DATA = FF" is not found, an instruction to erase is issued. Specifically, if erasing from x = 0 to x = G is confirmed for all addresses, x is again set at "0", and writing is begun. In this writing, one-time writing is first performed for all addresses from x = 0 to x = G on the basis of a writing time set at the minimum time in the initial setting. Next, the address counter x is again set at "0"; here, furthermore, the address counter y of the sub-address memory circuit (A) in Figure 1 that sets addresses for which writing was completed, and the address counter z of the subaddress memory circuit (B) that sets addresses for which writing was incomplete, are set at "0", and the read-out of data is begun. In this data read-out, data is continuously read out from x = 0 to x = G, and in this process, addresses in which the write data and readout data agree are set in the sub-address memory circuit (A). x and y are incrementally increased, and the next read-out is begun. Meanwhile, addresses in which the write data and read-out data do not agree are set in the sub-address memory circuit (B); x and y are incrementally increased, a flag is set, and the next read-out is begun. In the read-out of data, the data of the master data memory circuit 4 and the data of the written EPROM 9 are compared by the comparator circuit 5. In cases where the results of this comparison agree, a set signal is sent to the sub-address memory circuit (A) 7; in cases where the results do not agree, a set signal is sent to the sub-address memory circuit (B) 8 and the flag circuit. Here, in cases where read-out is completed for all of the addresses, only the sub-address circuit (A) is noted by the address switching circuit; x is set at "0", and the value of y at this point in time is set in G. Then, additional writing is performed only in the case of addresses with writing completed that are set in the sub-address memory circuit (A). Next, a check is made in order to ascertain whether or not the abovementioned flag has been set. If no flag has been set, this means that all of the writing has been completed. Accordingly, the processing is ended. However, in cases where a flag has been set, the number of times that writing has been performed is checked, and if this agrees with the maximum number of times of writing N, this means that the product has faulty writing; accordingly, the processing ends with a "faulty" display. Here, if n does not equal N, then only the sub-address memory circuit (B) is noted by the address switching circuit; x is set at "0", and the value of z at this point in time is set in G. In this way, rewriting is performed only for the addresses with incomplete writing that are set in the sub-address memory circuit (B). Then, a check is made by reading out the data in order to ascertain whether or not writing has been completed, and additional writing or rewriting is repeated.

Thus, in the present system, in the minimum writing time, additional writing is performed only in the case of written addresses, and additional writing [sic; error for

"rewriting"] is performed only in the case of unwritten addresses. Accordingly, writing can be completed in the required minimum time, and a sufficient written state can be achieved by performing additional writing. As a result, the system is superior in terms of reliability; furthermore, since addresses not written in each rewriting are stored in memory, these addresses can also be used for fault analysis and process analysis, etc. Furthermore, it goes without saying that use in one-bit units is also possible in fault analysis. Here, furthermore, a method was described in which only address were separated and stored; however, it would also be possible to use a method in which addresses and data are stored as integral units. Moreover, in Figures 1 and 2, an ultraviolet-erasable EPROM was described; however, the present invention could also be applied to other EPROMs such as EPROMs which can be written and erased electrically, etc.

4. Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 is a block diagram which illustrates one embodiment of the present invention. Figure 2 is a flow chart which is used to illustrate Figure 1.

In the figures, 1 is a control circuit, 2 is a master address memory circuit (M), 3 is an address switching circuit, 4 is a master data memory circuit, 5 is a comparator circuit, 6 is a flag setting circuit, 7 is a sub-address memory circuit (A), 8 is a sub-address memory circuit (B), x, y and z are address counters, G is the final address location, n is the number of repetitions, N is the maximum number of repetitions, M is a master address, and A and B are sub-addresses.

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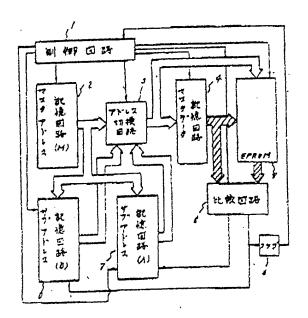
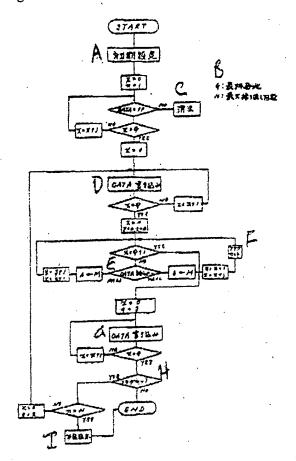


Figure 1

[Key: 1: Control circuit; 2: Master address memory circuit; 3: Address switching circuit; 4: Master data memory circuit; 5: Comparator circuit; 6: Flag; 7: Sub-address memory circuit (A); 8: Sub-address memory circuit (B).]

Figure 2



[Key: A: Initial setting; B: G: Final address; N: Maximum number of repetitions; C: Erase; D: Data writing; E: Data read-out; F: Flag set; G: Data writing; H: Flag set; I Fault display.]



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匈メモリ装置の高速書き込み方式

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明細节

1. 発明の名称

メモリ装置の高速智を込み方式

2. 修許請求の範囲

複数のメモリセルを含むメモリ装置の書き込み方式において、母き込み時間を許容される最小値もしくは該城小値に近い値に設定して全メモリセルについて書き込み後書き込み完了メモリセルと替き込み未了メモリセルとを検出し、前記書き込み未了メモリセルのみに対して前記一連の動作を再び行なうことを特徴とするメモリ装置の高速書き込み方式。

3. 発明の詳細な説明

本発明はメモリ装置の高速骸を込み方式に保り、 特に紫外線照射等の手段によりデータ消去を行な うことのできる消去可能プログラム可能脱み出し 将用メモリ(以下 EPROM という)の強き込みに 好適なメモリ装置の髙速帯き込み方式に関する。

近年、EPROMの大容量化にともない、データの審き込み時間の増大が問題となってきた。従来EPROMの審き込み方法は1パイト当たり50ms幅のパルスを加える方式が標準になっている。この方法で64×EPROMの審き込みを行なった場合7分(50ms×8×パイト)程度の時間を要し、更に128×EPROMに至っては実に14分(50ms×16×)あまりの時間を要する。この完整がいては20分によりデータ消去を行なうEPROMにあるがい、消去とびからなっととになり、以に時間が必要ということになり、以に時間が必要ということになり、以に時間が増大し、時間が増大し、時間が増大した場合には増々その時間が増大し、時間的にも大きな問題となってくる。

ところで、1バイト当り50msという審を込みパルス樹はプロセス等パラツキを考慮して更には信頼性の面から決定されているものと思われるが、全ビットが同一時間必要というものでは無く、必要強小時間にブラスした程度の時間で十分であ

る。そとで、ただ単に数 パルス幅を狭めるだけで巻き込み時間の短縮を計る方法もある。

本発明は単に書き込みパルス幅を挟めるのみでなくより効率的に尚かつ信頼性的に優れたEPROMの普き込み時間の短縮を計った高速審き込み方式を提供するものである。

本発明はまず最大のM あるいは好き込みパルス幅を設定レス、デルP ROM あるいは好き込むモリとマスタを記憶しているデータメモに関しているデータメモに関いて、カルア ROM とこれののでははデータを記憶しているが、とこれのでではないが、いいが、アースののではないが、アースののでは、アースののでは、アースののでは、アースののでは、アースののでは、アースののでは、アースののででは、アースののでは、アースののでは、アースののでは、アースののでは、アースののでは、アースののでは、アースののでは、カースののでで、カースののでは、カースのでは、カース

1 図は本発明の一実施例を示すブロック図である。 第2図は第1図を説明するための流れ図の一例で、 ある。まず、スタート後に電圧条件,マスタアド レス,マスタデータの記憶マスタアドレス記憶回 路部Mの凝終番地を Cなるレジスタにセットする。 これは第1図の制御回路に含まれるものであり、 第2図の初期設定に当る。第2図の×はアドレス カウンタであり、最終番地の検出の為に用いる。 пは繰り返し回欲のカウンタでこれにより最大警 き込み時間が決定される。ここでは、坂大繰り返 し回数をNとする。第2図の初期散定に続いてア ドレスカウンタ×を"O"にセットし、審込み繰り 返し回数 nを"1"にセットする。次に一般的に書 き込みに入る前にその製品が消去されているか否 か確認する。消去されている場合のデータは普通 "1" であり、1 ハイトが 8 ピットの場合へキサタ イブで"FF"になっている。これを全アドレスに ついて確認し、"DATA = FF" になっていない 場合に消去するように指示される。ここで全アド レスについて、すなわち、x=0からx=Gに至 一致するバイトの のアドレスを検出し、それぞれのアドレスを りに書き込み上記方法を域大回数(ここではN回 とする)繰り返し、その間比較回路のフラグのセットがない場合に なの一致アドレスのみの追加 暫き込みを行ない替き込み完了となり、「回後も フラグがセットされている場合には 被資き込み不良品と判定する 高速費き込み 方式である。

本発明によれば、バイト単位で各バイト必要な小限の書き込み時間でよく、信頼性面の考慮から追加書き込みを行なっており、128K EPROMで平均10msのパルス幅で済むものであれば、比較の為の時間を入れても3分程度で完了し更にバイト単位に各々必要なだけ書き込みを行なう為、高信頼性であり、また、もし書き込み不良となった場合には最後の不一致バイトのアドレスが不良解析にも使えるため、優れた高速音き込み方式といえる。

以下本発明を実施例により詳細に説明する。第

るまで消去が確認されたなら、再び×を"0"にセ ットし書き込みに入る。貴き込みは初期設定に最 小時間にセットされた書き込み時間に基づいてま $\vec{\tau} x = 0$ から x = 0 になるまで全アドレスについ て1回の費き込みを行なう。次に冉びアドレスカ ウンタ×を"0"にセットし、ここでは更に僭き込 みが出来たアドレスをセットする第1図のサブア ドレス記憶回路(A)のアドレスカウンタッと誓き込 みが不完全であったアドレスをセットするサブア ドレス記憶回路(内のアドレスカウンタェを"0" に セットし、データの嵌み出しに入る。データの説 み出しはx=0からx=Gまで連続して読み出さ れ、その過程においてなき込みデータと読み出し データが一致したアドレスはサブアドレス記憶回 路AIにセットされ、×およびyはインクリメント され次の説み出しに入る。一方、瞽を込みデータ と読み出しデータが一致しなかったアドレスはサ ブアドレス配像回路山にセットされ、×およびェ がインクリメントされ、史にフラグをセットし次 の読み出しに入る。データの読み出しにおいては、 第1四において4のマスタデ 記憶回路のデー タと9の被害き込み EPROM のデータとを5の比 校回路において比較し、比較の結果一致した場合 には1のサブアドレス記憶回路AIにセット信号を 送り、一致しなかった場合には8のサブアドレス 記憶回路旧とフラグ回路にセット信号を送る。こ こで全アドレスについて鋭み出しが完了した場合 には、アドレス切換回路によりサブアドレス記憶 回路AJのみに注目し、xは"0"にセットし、Gは この時点でのyの値をセットする。そして、サブ アドレス記憶回路AIにセットされている書き込み 完了アドレスのみ追加費き込みを行なう。次にフ ラグがセットされているか否か確認し, セットさ れていなければ甚き込みが全て完了したことを意 **味し、終了する。しかし、フラグがセットされて** いる場合には甘き込み回数の確認をし、これが敬 大審き込み回数Nに一致したなら書き込み不良の 製品であることを意味し、不良表示で終了する。 ここでn≒Nであったなら、アドレス切換回路に よりサブアドレス記憶回路(B)に注目し、xは"0"

にセットし、Gにそ での z の値をセットする。とうして再びサファドレス記憶回路(B)にセットされている夢き込み不完全なアドレスのみ再替き込みを行ない説み出しにより書き込み完了か否 か確認し、追加費き込み、また、再書き込みを繰り返す。

ついて説明したが、風気的に容き込み・消去可能な EPROM 等他の EPROM についても適用できる。

4. 図面の俯単な説明

なお図において、1 …… 間神回路、2 …… マスタアドレス記憶回路例、3 …… アドレス切換回路、4 …… マスタデータ記憶回路、5 …… 比較回路、6 …… フラグ設定回路、7 …… サブアドレス記憶回路(内、8 ……サブアドレス記憶回路(内、x,y,z …… アドレスカウンタ、G …… 最終アドレス番地、n …… 繰り返し回数、N …… 最大練り返し回数、M …… マスタアドレス、A, B …… サブアドレス、である。

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